

BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP/MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

The monthly workshop/meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held in the Cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street, in Bristol, RI, on Monday, September 11, 2006. The Chairperson, Marjorie J. McBride, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Present: Marjorie J. McBride, William A. Estrella, Jr., Thomas E. Skuba, William M. O'Dell, Paul Brule, Joyce M. Kinsella, John P. Saviano, Paul Silva and Beverly Z. Travers; Edward P. Mara, Superintendent; Melinda L. Thies, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction; Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance; Mary L. Cerullo, Executive Director of Literacy K – 12, Elementary Instruction, Assessment and Curriculum; and Andrew Henneous, Esq., District Solicitor;

Absent: none

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Mrs. McBride asked for a moment of silence for those who lost their lives during the terrorist attack five years ago and also to celebrate life.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 7:10 PM

In accordance with Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1)-(9), 2(b), Mr. Estrella motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:10 PM for legal advice on a contractor invoice issue and for a contract negotiations update. Mr. O'Dell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING – 7:37 PM

Discussed in Executive Session were the above issues.

Attorney Henneous left the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements and Electronic Portfolio
Paula Faria, Mt. Hope High School teacher, reported on her participation in the National Educational Computing Conference in San Diego in July, where she displayed portfolios from several Mt. Hope students. The State requires the school to show proficiency in

two ways, exams and the digital portfolio. The digital portfolio process started in 2002-03 and has been continuously expanded. Portfolio goals are two-fold—to show students as individuals, and to show that students are meeting district and state expectations. The ultimate goal is to create a graduation portfolio which will evidence the skills needed to graduate Mt. Hope High School. The process includes annual student exhibits which include work chosen by students as their best, evaluation and conversation with student by teacher evaluator, and a formal review process near graduation. Mt. Hope is a leader in the portfolio process; educators from around the country were impressed. She thanked the administration for their support and the staff and faculty for helping to create skillful learners.

Dr. Mara commented that as we continue to focus on improving our graduation rate, this will help us track our students' progress from year to year and is a good barometer for assessing the academic needs of our students.

Kerry Sloat, Art Teacher at Mt. Hope, spoke to the Committee about protocol of the upcoming NEASC visit and gave a brief overview of the process. She and Mr. Joseph Koger will meet with the Committee on Monday, September 18 at 6:00 PM in the Superintendent's Office to go over the visit.

Summer School Report

Mr. Guy Murgo, Assistant Principal of Mt. Hope High School, reported a very successful session, with six seniors graduating, only one

failing grade, students enrolled from around Rhode Island as well as one from Florida, and the addition of Mt. Hope Plus courses and a special education teacher to assist students with IEP's or 504's. Electives were offered as a credit recovery resource.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation #S2006-43: PERSONNEL

A. APPOINTMENTS: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicants to the positions listed below:

1. Rebecca Wingstrom English as a Second Language Teacher (4/5 time) -

Effective: August 28, 2006, for the 2006-07 school year, pending receipt of certification and satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements

**Reason: To fill a vacancy
(Resignation – S. Dobson)**

Funding: Operational Budget (8th Step)

2. Nicole Sousa Music Teacher (2/5 time) – Kickemuit Middle

Effective: September 8, 2006, for the remainder of

**the 2006-07 school year, pending
receipt of certification and satisfactory
completion of pre-employment
requirements**

**Reason: To fill a job share vacancy
(Resignation – S. Yount)**

Funding: Operational Budget (1st Step)

3. Cynthia L. Roe Lead Teacher – Adult Basic Education Program

**Effective: August 28, 2006, in accordance with
grant funding and pending satisfactory
completion of pre-employment
requirements**

Reason: To fill a new position

Funding: Bristol County Adult Learning Grant

**B. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: That the School Committee
confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the
following applicant to the extracurricular position listed below for the
2006-07 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient
sign-ups to warrant running this program):**

COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH

Sport Position Coach

1. Soccer (Boys) Asst. Coach Raunisio P. Oliveira *

*** Pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements**

C. CONTINUING ADULT EDUCATION: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following individuals as instructors for the 2006-07 Continuing Adult Education Program contingent upon sufficient enrollment:

Name Course

- 1. Elizabeth Argo Speech/Voice**
- 2. Marjorie Biancuzzo Teacher Assistant**
- 3. Joseph Brinza Computers**
- 4. Kris Carlone Aerobics**
- 5. Dina Criscione Healing Angels**
- 6. Connie DiSarro Dance/Exercise**
- 7. William Dwyer Computers**
- 8. LeeAnn Freitas Flower Arrang./Landscape**
- 9. Kim Jacobs Photo Albums**
- 10. Alan Merritt Computers**
- 11. Alice Patterson Dance**
- 12. Herbert Peterson Backyard Astronomy**
- 13. Julie Sardelli Water Color**
- 14. Barry Schrutt Photography**
- 15. Meghan Sepe Photography**
- 16. Tony Teixeira Portuguese**
- 17. Ni Ketut Tirta Dance**
- 18. Michael Urban Computers**
- 19. Marie Weathers Astrology**

D. CERTIFIED SUBSTITUTES: That the School Committee confirm

the recommendation of the Superintendent to place on file in the office of the Superintendent the following applications for certified substitutes pending satisfactory completion of pre-employment requirements:

CERTIFIED

Name Area/Level

- 1. Susan M. Costa General Subject Matter**
- 2. Jane Ann Dennis Elementary**
- 3. David Fletcher Social Studies**
- 4. Rebecca Hayden Elementary**
- 5. Dorene Mello Elementary**

E. SUSPENSION, NONRENEWAL AND/OR TERMINATION OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to rescind the vote(s) of February 13, 2006 as to the following listed teachers and appoint the listed teachers to the positions indicated:

Name Anticipated Assignment

- 1. Paul Castigliero Middle School Health/Physical Education (Full Time)**

F. LEAVE OF ABSENCE: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to grant a leave of absence for an Elementary Teacher as follows:

1. Susan Jones Grade Five Teacher – M.V. Quirk

Effective: January 4, 2007, for 6-8 weeks

**Reason: Maternity leave in accordance with
Article 21, Section L1 of the Master
Agreement**

Susan Jones Grade Five Teacher – M.V. Quirk

**Effective: Upon completion of Maternity Leave
through May 2007**

**Reason: Parental leave in accordance with
Article 21, Section L2 of the Master
Agreement**

**G. RESIGNATIONS: That the School Committee confirm the
recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the resignations
listed below:**

1. Marie Cottrell Head Teacher – Byfield

Effective: End of the 2005-06 School Year

Reason: Personal

2. Sonya Yount Music Teacher – Kickemuit Middle

Effective: September 1, 2006

Reason: Personal

MOTION: Mr. Estrella motioned to remove section D from this vote;

Mr. Silva seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Estrella, seconded by Mr. Silva, motioned to approve Superintendent's Recommendation #S2006-43 minus section D. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Estrella motioned to approve Section D of Superintendent's Recommendation #S2006-43; Mr. O'Dell seconded. Mr. Silva recused himself from this vote. The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0 (Mrs. McBride chose not to vote.).

Superintendent's Recommendation #S2006-44: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, award the bid for architectural services for the Colt Andrews Bond Project.

MOTION: Ms. Travers motioned to award the bid for architectural services for the Colt Andrews Bond Project to Torrado Architects; Mrs. Kinsella seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MT. HOPE HOME BUILDING PROJECT REPORT

Mr. Estrella reported that the Board is investigating the promising possibility of moving a house to the Jefferson Lane property. Mr. Saviano is working with the Town of Warren on the use of a piece of property being offered by a donor. The project has had a financial decrease over the past few years so any donations of land would be

greatly appreciated. Approximately fourteen students work directly on the project (all Bristol Warren, as we are not a vocational school); at least three of our past students have become local contractors; the students are required to take the OSHA training course. Mrs. McBride and Mr. Estrella will also take the course.

ROCKWELL BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Mara said the Rockwell Building Committee is disbanded; the project is finished under budget and on time, with the exception of an issue on the trees and the reseeding of the grass in the front. The State needs to finish their project and the Town would like to be part of the tree planting. The state-of-the-art playground will be complete within two weeks; drainage on the property is not a problem and the bus circle works great. Mrs. Kinsella commended everyone involved for a beautiful job done on time and under budget.

CHAIRPERSON'S INITIATIVES

Bussing

Mrs. McBride iterated that Dr. Mara and Mrs. Correia have done everything they possibly could do to facilitate the bussing issues. A representative of Laidlaw was asked to be present to answer questions. Mr. Ted Abrain told the Committee he has been working with Laidlaw as a consultant; he is looking at the entire structure of

the system and will be riding every bus (problem runs first) to restore the integrity of the system and retrain the people there (there is a new dispatcher). Certain things cannot be changed, such as distance (Reynolds to Touisset), traffic, and monitors having to do a three-point check at each stop. Dr. Mara pointed out that the Mary V. Quirk and Hugh Cole runs will be reduced when the schools merge in January. Mrs. McBride asked the Superintendent for an update in two weeks. The Committee was pleased that Mr. Abrain was involved and asked for assurances that this year's problems will not happen again. It was felt that part of the problem was the lack of bidders for the contract.

Fundraising

Although a new fundraising policy has been adopted and an athletic boosters organization is being formed, there still seems to be an overburdening number of the solicitations from the District. After discussion it was the consensus of the Committee that the new policy is appropriate for the elementary schools, but needs to be revamped for the middle and high schools. Some of the issues are 50/50 raffles by the band, disposition of gate receipts, what constitutes a "major" fundraiser, and accountability. The Policy Subcommittee will revisit the policy and asked that Committee members concerns be forwarded to them.

Radio Alarm System at Kickemuit Middle School

Fire Chief Gallinelli informed Mr. Pugh that for the next three to four

weeks, while the Town is doing repair work, Kickemuit will not be connected to the fire alarm system because we do not have a radio alarm system. The District will purchase one at a cost of approximately \$5,000.

Phone System

There are some lingering issues with the new phone system, such as failure of the entire system when there is a power outage at Main Street, no hot lines and cell phones do not function within the buildings so 911 cannot be called. Dr. Mara will ask the vendor to be present at the September 25th meeting to answer questions.

BUDGET/FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Skuba reported that meetings with Joint Finance Members and our legislators will be scheduled and Joint Finance preparations will begin after November elections.

PERSONNEL/CONTRACT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Update on Council 94 negotiations will be given in Executive Session.

POLICY/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Public Participation at School Committee Meetings

The Subcommittee has discussed the policy at length; they are recommending an open public forum at the end of Workshops with time limitations. Policy recommendations will first be reviewed by the Committee at a meeting for a first reading, then be open for public discussion at the following workshop. Public Comments will be limited to agenda items and will not be responded to; Public Forums will be open to any issue with exchange of views of the Committee; however, it must be made absolutely clear that the response from one particular Committee member is that person's, and only that person's opinion. Open discussion does lend itself to long meetings.

PUBLIC FORUM

Diana Campbell commented that statistics show that students perform better when parents are active in the schools; she would like to see parent/public participation encouraged, perhaps through a public relations campaign. Mrs. McBride said the policy will continue to be adjusted until it is complete and workable.

Dr. Mara announced that eighth grade students at Kickemuit will be involved in a nationwide reading of the Constitution this Friday, September 15 between 1:00 and 3:00 PM. It is a great honor.

Al Rezendes, a Mt. Hope teacher, reminded the Committee about naming some part of the facilities or a memorial to Tom Vendituoli. The Committee is working on it. He also thanked Mr. Estrella for his

help during a catastrophic injury he recently sustained.

Diana Campbell addressed the Committee about fundraisers—she felt they should be managed rather than be limited and people should not be discouraged from raising funds. The Committee responded that there are issues with excessive numbers of fundraisers, and very active and less active parent groups as well as differences in school populations across the District create inequities.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:55 PM

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Estrella, seconded by Ms. Travers, motioned to adjourn at 9:55 PM. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. O'Dell, Secretary

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